

LINK-UP

DUBLIN AND MUNSTER PRESBYTERY
Presbyterian Church in Ireland

Bulletin No. 4

October 1992



KILKENNY

A NOTE FROM THE HONORARY EDITOR

KILKENNY CONGREGATION, which over the years has experienced changing fortunes, was organised in 1838. But there appears to have been a Presbyterian settlement here more than a century earlier, for the Rev. James Armstrong (afterwards DD and MRJA) in his *Short account of the General Fund* (Dublin 1815) lists Kilkenny as a Southern Association or Synod of Munster congregation and the Rev. Thomas Palmer as its minister. This was the Mr Palmer who became minister of Clonmel in 1690 and who, still at Clonmel six years later, contributed the whole of his congregational stipend of thirty pounds a year to the newly-established fund for the support of the Presbyterian interest in the south of Ireland.

In the appendix to his pamphlet dated 1839 on the trial for Arianism of the Rev. Thomas Emlyn, 'George Mathews' (pseudonym of Duncan Chisholm), who had access to Synod of Munster records in Dublin Castle, also lists a Mr Palmer as having ministered at Clonmel and as having also been minister of the congregation of Kilkenny. Unfortunately Mathews does not assign dates to Mr Palmer's tenure of either charge but both he and Armstrong are in agreement about his having been the only minister who laboured at Kilkenny.

The Rev. Thomas Palmer died in 1738. It may be that the old congregation of Kilkenny died with him and that it remained extinct for exactly a hundred years.

'SATURDAY 20 JUNE was an historic day in the life of the Kilkenny congregation...' So writes the Rev. John D Woodside in the opening paragraph of his contribution to this issue of the Bulletin. It was indeed an historic day not only for Kilkenny but for the Presbyterian Church in Ireland. Could anything be more heartening than to see in the Republic of Ireland where Church membership had been on the decline since the early 'twenties a new place of worship capable of seating in its main sanctuary three hundred worshippers being dedicated and opened completely free of debt? Mr Woodside's article makes exciting reading and shows the Holy Spirit at work in Kilkenny, as in other southern congregations where recent attendance and membership figures, notably those of Arklow and Lucan, have increased.

'CONGREGATIONS IN THE REPUBLIC are now building new churches and halls to accommodate growing numbers and expanding activities...' remarks the Very Rev. Professor R F G Holmes, a former Moderator who recently retired as Principal of Union Theological College in Belfast. In the new (1992) revised

and enlarged edition of his history of the Church, *Our Irish Presbyterian heritage* (£6.95 stg), Dr Holmes expresses the opinion that on recent evidence the decline in numbers in this part of the island may have been arrested (p. 158).

Professor Holmes's history, which first appeared in 1985, is published by the Church's Publications Committee. A second though much shorter historical work which emanated from Church House recently is the beautifully illustrated *Irish Presbyterianism 1642 - 1992* brochure (£2.00 stg). Again, the text is by Professor Finlay Holmes while the photography is the work of the Rev. Dr Gordon Gray. An introductory note is contributed by the Moderator of the General Assembly, the Right Rev. Dr John Dunlop. This is a publication of the Presbyterian Historical Society of Ireland. The Society, about which we hope to publish an article in a future issue of LINK-UP, has eighty-five years of activity to its credit.

DISPUTED DATE. Adverting to my introductory note in Bulletin No. 3 (June) it has been brought to my attention that the first presbytery (also known as the Army Presbytery) met at Carrickfergus, not on 10 July but on 10 June 1642. I quoted the date from the first edition of the *History and antiquities of the county of the town of Carrickfergus* (1811) by Samuel M'Skimin, who cited as his authority *Presbyterian loyalty* by the Rev. James Kirkpatrick, DD, MD (Belfast 1713) p. 263.

Kirkpatrick's date is 10 July 1642 but the Rev. Patrick Adair's *Narrative* sets down 10 June and that date has been followed by Anderson, Bailie, Barkley, Hamilton, Holmes, Buick Knox, Latimer, Reid and his continuator Killen, the two Stewarts (David of Cregagh and David of Muckamore), Witherow and Woodburn. Principal Davey and Dr Irwin wisely confined themselves to setting down the year only - 1642. Re-reading my copy of Dr A T Q Stewart's *The narrow ground: patterns of Ulster history* recently I noticed that he follows Kirkpatrick's date (p. 86 of facsimile edition 1986).

Adair's *Narrative* which was edited by Dr Killen remained in manuscript until 1866, by which time M'Skimin was long dead. It is unlikely that the historian of Carrickfergus ever had a sight of Adair's original manuscript, for we are told that it was 'lost to public view for many years'. He therefore would have had to rely upon Kirkpatrick, the only Church historian whose published work was accessible to him in 1811.

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BULLETIN NO.5, will by God's grace, be ready for distribution at the February 1993 meeting of Presbytery. A hearty 'Thank You!' once again to all our contributors and to our printers. Ministers, clerks of session, congregational secretaries and correspondents will please note that articles and items for inclusion in our next issue should reach

The Honorary Editor
LINK-UP
Farranshane
GREYSTONES
Co. Wicklow

by Monday 4 January 1993

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ABBEY

'A very special event in the life of the congregation' is how the *Abbey Magazine* describes the induction as Community Minister on Sunday evening, 13 September, of the Rev. Katherine P Meyer, BA, MDiv. The Rev. Ms Meyer is also chaplain to Trinity College, to Dublin City University and to the Dublin Institute of Technology. She will take some of the workload off the Rev. Alan V Martin, who as well as having had the oversight until now of Abbey's wide range of activities is also filling the important office of Clerk of Presbytery. The new Community Minister has had wide experience in community and student chaplaincy work. A circular letter accompanying the latest issue of the *Magazine* asks us to 'Pray that Katherine will fit easily into the congregation and the new jobs she will have to do, and that Alan will be able to continue his work and co-ordinate well with her in all their responsibilities'.

AGHADA AND TRINITY CORK

There has been much activity this summer in the Trinity committee rooms. A new carpet has been laid and new cupboards fitted. Through the generosity of the Social Witness Board a "fax" and answering machine has been supplied for the minister's study, in order to help him with his duties as convener of the Southern Coordinating Committee which supervises Presbyterian social witness in the Republic. Rev. John Faris is usually available there Tuesday to Friday at 021 507119 and if he is not available you may leave a message or even a fax, always supposing that he has pressed the right buttons!

It has been exciting again this summer to welcome many tourists and some local people who ask to see round the church building. As many as 200 have called to admire the architecture, and in some cases to pray and take a scripture leaflet.

A team of Presbyterian young people shared in outreach at the end of July and beginning of August. They worked hard and harmoniously at coffee bar and door-to-door outreach. New this year was the idea of taking a guitar and singing in a city centre park where those enjoying the sunshine seemed quite receptive to chatting about spiritual things.

We miss in Trinity Miss Patricia Walls who died in early July after an illness endured with courage and faith. Although she much preferred worship in the church building it was typical of her that she would bring an embroidered cloth to decorate the lectern for winter services in the hall and also a bag to help the treasurer take home the offerings.

We have said farewell to Trinity organist Grainne Concagh who is leaving Cork in September. We have also said 'Auf Wiedersehen!' to Irmgard Graeme-Cook who has decided to make her home in Dresden. A service of thanksgiving for the life and ministry of the late Rev. Brian Graeme-Cook was held in Aghada on Sunday 6 September. People from different traditions in Cork who had known Brian took part. Rev. Samuel Williamson, former minister of Aghada, was also present. A marble memorial plaque was dedicated.

Some important dates to note:

Sunday 4 October: Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

Sunday 11 October: 11.45 Trinity, 3 p.m. Aghada Harvest Thanksgiving, Rev. David Searle, Hamilton Rd, Bangor.

Sunday 18 October: 3 p.m. Girls' Brigade Enrolment.

Monday 19 October: 8 p.m. Visit of Presbyterian missionaries.

Some of us have enjoyed meeting on Sunday evenings in Trinity hall for a time of informal worship and fellowship. The children join us for singing and then go off for their own activity while the adults have a bible study or discussion and prayer time. Among topics for the autumn we have planned

a tape of Dr John Dunlop's moderatorial address 'Crossing the Frontiers with Christ';

a report on the Dublin Evangelisation Congress;

a visit to the Week of Hope in Christ Church, Limerick;

a discussion with Pamela Lockie, Social Witness Adviser;

a visit to new Cork Bible Society group at Blackrock Castle;

an experimental film outreach.

John Faris

ARKLOW AND GREYSTONES

Everyone in A and G says 'Hello!' We're taking a few deep breaths after a very full summer. How good it is to be busy in our Lord's work! And how much better it is to have His Presence in our congregations and His Blessing on our witness for Him! Both congregations are thriving, as are Ben Rowe, son of Martin and Madeleine; Clive Crammond, son of Clive and Margaret; Rachel, daughter of Brendan and Yvonne Walsh, and Naomi-Jane, daughter of Ken and Jane Gibson - all born this year. New faces keep appearing in both churches as the Lord adds to our numbers. By now Alex and Myriam Bergin are in Portugal - following a new step in the Lord's guidance for them. They hope to be in an orphanage in Oporto, after their work for the Irish Mission in our area.

Arklow has been 'bursting at the seams' as holiday-makers filled our church. We had to bring in extra chairs for worship on several Sundays. What joy to welcome leaders from the Dublin Christian Mission, 'Family Week' at Ovoca Manor, Sullivan Upper Scripture Union as well as folk who were in the area all summer and strengthened our fellowship!

Our Holiday Bible Club included some children who seldom attend church. We were delighted to have the help of David Smith (Belfast), Jane Gibson (Greystones) and Mirjam Richter (Germany).

Greystones had great support for Coffee Mornings and 'Forty-Minutes' (Sunday evenings). Our young people thoroughly enjoyed CSSM. Indeed it was truly marvellous to see the Birthday Service on the South Beach crowded with over 700 people there. The congregation was inspired by our Sunday Club who

organised a 24-Hour 'Stay-Awake' in connection with Project Malawi. The venture included jobs done, Table Tennis, Video, Bar-b-que, 'Sing for Malawi' and raised over £700. Amazing!!

Both congregations are well ahead in plans for Harvest and visits in connection with the Social Witness Board and the Missionary Tour. We are full of gratitude at the gracious way God is leading us. May His Name be greatly praised in all the Presbytery and beyond!

Jim Carson

BALLYMOTE

Work has commenced on our church hall and we hope it will be completed by the end of September.

Mark Thorpe and Melissa Bell had an enjoyable visit in July to the Killinchy congregation in Co. Down.

Congratulations to Wilson Thorpe on the completion of his examinations in paediatric medicine. Congratulations also to Thelma Bell on winning the Irish Schools' Long-Distance Canoe Championships in the ladies' KI canoe on the Liffey Descent in June.

The death of Mr Arthur (Hal) Clifford took place in Dublin on 22 July. He was a brother of Mrs Nettie Orr. The death also occurred of Mrs Grace Lyons on 3 August. She was the wife of Mr Richard Lyons, Letter, Co. Fermanagh, and a daughter of Mr and Mrs Wilson Thorpe.

Edith Thorpe and Harriet Bell

BLACKROCK: ST ANDREW'S

Baptism: Melissa Allison, daughter of Geoff and Karen O'Leary.

Over the Summer months we were pleased to welcome several visitors to St Andrew's. Mr Kalman Olle from Budapest joined us on several Sundays. Visiting us from Toronto we had Rev. Gordon and Mrs Jesse Nodwell, also Elizabeth Marsh and her husband Neville d'Eca who were on a three-month tour of Ireland.

Our morning worship on two Sundays was led by a previous member of our

church, Mrs Celia Kenny, who is at present studying for the ministry in Edinburgh, where she now lives with her husband and four children.

A member of our Junior Church, Judith Poynton, attended a Summer Camp at the Christian centre in Taize in France.

It is with regret that we have to announce the retirement of our Boys' Brigade Captain Mr Leslie Buttmer, after 31 years' service. He will be greatly missed by us all.

Diary Dates:

4 October 1992 Communion at 10 a.m.
11 October 1992 Harvest Thanksgiving Services at 11 a.m. and 4 p.m.
18 October 1992 PWA Service at 10 a.m.
25 October 1992 Broadcast Service on RTE Radio at 11.30 a.m.
31 October 1992 Autumn Sale 10.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.
21 December 1992 Carol Service at 4 p.m.

BRAY: ST ANDREW'S

Wedding: Congratulations to Nick Stewart of Kilmacanogue on his marriage to Rosie Gent: the wedding took place on 10 July on the banks of Lough Dan in the heart of the Wicklow mountains.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

4 October: United Communion with the Methodist Church.
18 October: Harvest Thanksgiving services 11.30 a.m. and 7 p.m.
Friday morning Bible Studies will take place on 6, 13, and 20 November.

On Saturday 13 June we were pleased to welcome the ladies of Lurgan PWA. They were the recipients of the Bray PWA scroll and were anxious that we should have a 'get-together'. Sixty-two ladies made the journey and were entertained to lunch by our members. After lunch they visited our church and Mr Campbell gave a short history of the congregation. We joined them later in the Royal Hotel for an evening meal. We all enjoyed the friendship and fellowship and hope to maintain this link.

This summer we are glad to report a noticeable increase in the number of visitors joining us for Sunday worship. Many of them were from Northern Ireland.

Since letting the school building to the VEC we have been without a hall. This has presented us with problems on several occasions and so a committee has been appointed to explore the possibility of the provision of new facilities.

We are all deeply concerned about Mrs Hazel Reid who suffered a stroke in May while on holiday and has been recuperating in the Belfast City Hospital ever since. Our thoughts and prayers are with her and with Sheena and David.

CLONTARF

The Annual Children's Holiday Bible Club took place in Howth Road Schools from Monday 13 to Friday 18 July. The outreach team consisted of 41 young people under the leadership of Mr Des Paul and Miss Gillian Anderson. The attendance was tremendous consisting on the first day of over 200 children and rising to 267 by mid-week, with over 100 being in the 4-6-year-old age-group. A number of evening activities were also organised for the older age-group. These included bowling, barbeque on Dollymount Beach and a parents' evening. An excellent week was had by all even though the team went home exhausted.

The Boys' Brigade Annual Camp was held in Torquay this year from 2 - 15 August when the Company were joined by boys from the Cork Company. All had a good time in spite of the bad weather.

It is with regret that we record the deaths of our Sunday School Superintendent Mr Alec Ellis on 14 June and Mrs Kay White on 4 September 1992. To both their families we offer our deepest sympathy.

Our Harvest Thanksgiving Service will be held on Sunday 11 October 1992.

Valerie J. Dagg

ORMOND QUAY AND SCOTS

We along with Clontarf have been given leave to call a minister and we hope that by the time the next issue of LINK-UP appears we will have our new minister installed.

How the time flies! The summer is over and now we're down to organising the winter programmes. We had a good number of visitors this year: people from Australia, New Zealand, Canada, USA, Spain, Germany, and of course Northern Ireland and Britain, not forgetting those from within the Republic.

The members of the church committee undertook the painting of our large hall and this is now finished . While it was a big task we all enjoyed the *craic*. The hall is looking well.

The Dublin Presbytery City Mission held their annual Summer Bible Camp at Drewstown House, Co. Meath. The children and young people became part of a larger camp and the missionary and his wife joined with the Drewstown staff, thus forming a 'team' in order to organise and run the camps. Four different camps are held: ages 14-16 years (one week); 11-14 years (one week); 8-10 years (four days), and a family camp held over the holiday weekend in August. As well as being a thoroughly good holiday with good food, plenty of fun and games and good fresh country air, the teaching of the Word of God is the top priority at each of the camps.

The Mission were able to take a total of 82 persons away this year and all heartily enjoyed and appreciated every aspect of the camp. Ken, Betty and the committee of the City Mission would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who contributed so generously to the 'Holiday Fund'. The Lord will bless you one and all.

The Outreach Team under the leadership of Mr Billy Patterson had a successful week. They gave us an insight into their work during morning service at the end of the visit.

The Bowling Club has restarted and would welcome new members. If you want any information please contact the secretary, 'phone no. 313409. They play on Tuesday nights. The Badminton Club play on Mondays and Thursdays and they also welcome new members. Further information may be had from Brian Miller, 'phone no. 908642.

The PWA meet on the second Tuesday of each month. A varied programme has been drawn up for the year. Their annual sale in aid of the Missions will be held in November. New members will be very welcome.

The Session has arranged for our usual Carol Service for the business community for Wednesday 16 December at 1 p.m. The Salvation Army Band will be in attendance and the proceeds of the service will go to two charities.

The Presbytery Youth Council hope to run Gospel Rock Contests in our hall on 3 October and 5 December 1992 and 13 February 1993. Young people please take a note of these dates.

Robert Grealey

DROGHEDA

Senior Ministers

Drogheda congregation is unique in the Presbytery of Dublin and Munster due to the fact that there are three senior ministers. All three are now in their eighties and, happily, enjoy good health. Rev. W H Martin, BA, was ordained in 1930 in Boyle and Ballymote and also served in Clogherney, Moville, New Zealand and Gortnessy as well as in Drogheda.

Rev. W E Kirkpatrick, BA, was ordained for the Indian Mission Field in 1939 and, after a period of thirty years there, finished his ministerial life in Drogheda. He now lives in Belfast where he is still active in Church affairs.

Rev. R C Elliott, MA, was ordained in Strabane in 1936 and served in Abbey, Knock, Enniscorthy and Wexford, Kells and Ervey and retired from Drogheda and Ervey to live in Belfast. The sterling service of these servants of God is still fondly remembered in their last sphere of labour.

Marriage

14 August 1992 in the Chapel of Trinity College, Dublin:
Carol Ormiston and Harold Esmonde.

Mosney Holiday Centre

Appreciative comment was made on the services of worship arranged for holiday makers during the season. The numbers were small but there was a happy atmosphere of praise to God for his goodness. The Home Mission defrays the expenses of those who supply on the allotted Sundays.

Harvest Services

The annual harvest services will be held on Sunday 18 October at 10.00 a.m. and 7.00 p.m. The preacher at 7.00 p.m. will be the Rev R S Ross, BA, Carnlough and Cushendall Presbyterian Churches, Co. Antrim. Mr Ross has been a visitor at the church when staying with his late brother at Termonfeckin. The soloist will be Miss Jennifer Johnston, Hilltown, Co. Down.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Mr and Mrs J Armstrong and Mr J H Miller on the birth of grandsons; to Mr and Mrs J Lee on their daughter's marriage.

ERVEY

Baptism

31 May 1992: Joanne Linda, daughter of Mr and Mrs J W Armstrong, Ervey. Baby's date of birth 18 April 1992.

Harvest Service

The annual harvest service will be held on Sunday 11 October at 3.00 p.m. The preacher will be Rev. Joan Scott, BA, BD, minister of Garnerville Presbyterian Church, Belfast. Mrs Scott is married to Rev. D Malcolm Scott, BA, BD, minister of St Columba's Presbyterian Church, Lisburn, Co. Antrim. Mrs Scott was formerly on the mission field. The soloist will be Mr Edwin McDowell, Rathfriland, Co. Down.

Graveyard

The back portion of the graveyard was cleaned up during the summer and now presents a most attractive picture. The congregation is most grateful for their labours to those who carried out the work.

Charles McCurdy

DUN LAOGHAIRE

Reading through past Minutes of a Congregational Committee may make fascinating reading, opening a window to a bygone era but they can contain some disconcerting surprises.

For instance, a Minute of the Meeting held on 19/5/09 succinctly records:

'Letter from McLunning (Organist) assenting to a reduction of his salary read.'

And nobody was safe - in the Congregational Report submitted to a Meeting on 23/1/18:

'Mr Eason (Hon. Sec.) submitted draft report of Committee. It was decided not to put in any reference to the decrease in the payment to Mr Gardner (Minister), but to read the statement to the members at the Annual Meeting.'

Plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose!

In contrast, Visitations seem to have engendered unbridled profligacy, for it is recorded at a Meeting held on 31/1/12:

'Mr Brown reported that the Royal Marine Hotel had agreed to supply the dinner at 4/- per head including coffee but not minerals nor cigars, the hour of the dinner to be 6 o'clock sharp.'

Ladies did not attend, which was probably just as well since they do raise the decibel level excessively and appear to lack any comprehension of the important things in life like business and sport...even cars.

Nearer the undersigned's bailiwick, it is minuted of a Meeting on 9/11/42 that:

'Mr Boyd drew attention to the Hon. Sec.'s omission to summon a meeting of the Committee in September and on the first Thursday in November. As he refused to make the matter the subject of a proposal, and was not supported by any other member, the Hon. Sec. offered no explanation.'

Good for him!!

There could possibly be further musings on these Minutes in the future provided no misfortune befalls the undersigned in the interim.

Bill Nesbitt

A 'First' for Dun Laoghaire

On Sunday morning next, 11 October, the Harvest Thanksgiving Service will be televised from the church in York Road. A television outside broadcast from a suburban church of a minority Christian denomination is, says the editorial in the congregation's September-October *Newsletter*, 'a very unusual occurrence'. Until now all televised services of worship have been transmitted from the Donnybrook

studios. We learn however that if this experiment at York Road is deemed to be a success RTE plan to televise worship once a month from the various churches in Ireland.

KILKENNY'S NEW CHURCH

Saturday 20 June 1992 was an historic day in the life of the Kilkenny congregation. Months of prayer, planning and anticipation had given way to fulfilment and realisation. A congregation of over 800 drawn from across the whole island gathered to celebrate and give thanks as the Right Rev. Dr John Dunlop conducted the service of dedication of the new building.

A week earlier the local congregation met for the last time in the old church which had served as a spiritual home since it was established in 1838. Those 150 years had brought mixed fortunes.

In earlier years numbers had been boosted by Presbyterian families from local Scottish regiments. By the 1950s numbers had dropped as low as 5 or 6 regular worshippers. Closure was on the cards but for the fact that a small but significant new influx brought numbers up to around 14 families by 1980. When Rev. John Woodside came in 1984 as the first resident minister in 50 years and then Billy Patterson, an Irish Mission evangelist a year later, it was to a small but very enthusiastic congregation. Sunday school classes were held in the nearby Club House Hotel. Despite the lack of toilet, kitchen or hall facilities the church family were deeply conscious of God's presence with them week by week in the little Ormonde Road church. However, as they were joined by an influx of newcomers the lack of facilities was an increasing handicap.

It was at the suggestion of Home Mission and Church Extension that the by-now 200 strong congregation should find a new site on which to build adequate accommodation. That search led to the magnificent 3 1/2-acre New Road site on which building was begun in the summer of 1991. The problem of raising in the region of £400,000 still lay before the congregation. However with an initial commitment of £150,000 from Church Extension and £30,000 from Home Mission, subsequent help from Young Women's Group and Sunday School projects and staggering generosity from congregations and individuals in the wider church that total was reached in less than 2 years. The new church was opened without debts or loans.

So it was particularly heartwarming for the congregation to be joined by so many friends at the opening service, many of whom had contributed to its completion. Worship was enhanced by the Lowe Memorial young people's orchestra and the Daybreak Choir from Dublin. The hymns sung reflected the mood of the occasion: 'Name of all majesty', 'O God beyond all praising', 'O breath of life come sweeping through us' and 'Lord for the years your hand has

kept and guided'. Leaders of other churches, the Mayor, County Manager, representatives of the Garda and the Army, the media and local community life mingled with Presbyterians from as far away as Donegal and Derry to Cork and Dublin. Kilkenny's local radio station devoted 1 1/2 hours to live coverage of the event including a historical introduction tracing the congregation's history and a detailed description of the new building.

Dr Dunlop greeting those assembled picked up on his moderatorial theme: 'The church is at its best whenever it follows God who is always crossing frontiers and now calls us as a church to follow Him. The General Assembly wishes God's blessing upon the whole church and upon this congregation as we cross frontiers within Europe and Ireland, the frontiers between churches, the frontiers between men and women, between the old and the young and between the old and the new'.

Rev. Derek Poots, secretary of Home Mission took as his theme: 'The church...a community of life (through the indwelling Holy Spirit), a community of love (for each other and the world outside) a community of hope (in a despairing and dark world).'

The new building will provide excellent facilities for the congregation's needs. The main sanctuary can seat up to 300 comfortably and this capacity can be doubled for special events by removing sliding, soundproof partitions which open into the adjoining badminton hall. Upstairs, smaller meeting rooms look over the main sanctuary through soundproof glass screens. These are ideal for creche and Sunday school during morning worship. They also double as a gallery area.

The basically simple design of the building is enhanced by an arched doorway and large arched windows on each side wall. Coloured glass windows depict the 7 'I AM' sayings of Jesus along the sanctuary wall. Above the main doorway, the burning bush, a lamb and dove underline the Trinitarian faith of the church. Inside the foyer two beautiful pictures with old Irish inscriptions depict a Celtic Cross and High Tower. They were the work of Ballycastle artist Bob Sellar, father of Frank, minister in Adelaide Road Donore.

Outside over 3 acres is available for development for parking, sports facilities or other needs.

THE CONGREGATION IS DEEPLY GRATEFUL TO ALL WHO HAVE MADE THEIR NEW BUILDING POSSIBLE. IT IS THEIR HOPE THAT MANY MEMBERS OF PRESBYTERY WILL BE ABLE TO JOIN THEM ON SOME SUITABLE OCCASION IN THE FUTURE. AS THEY FACE THE FUTURE TOGETHER THEY REMAIN AS DEPENDENT ON GOD'S FAITHFULNESS AND STRENGTH AS THEY HAVE NEEDED TO BE IN THE PAST

'To God be the Glory!'

MULLINGAR

Hello from Mullingar! Congratulations to those responsible for striving to achieve a presbytery newsletter. We are delighted to have the opportunity to appear in LINK-UP.

Our Annual 'Open' Service was held in March. Although advertised in the local paper attendance was disappointing, but we live in hope for next year.

On 29 May our Church was the setting for the marriage of two of our members, David Ferris and Antoinette Bennett - the first wedding of a member or members in fifteen years.

Our Annual United Youth Service took place on 6 September, when we welcomed friends from the congregations of Kells and Corboy and enjoyed the chat and cup of tea or orange afterwards.

In this small congregation of Mullingar there is a great mix of nationalities at the moment with Germany, Zambia, Nigeria and India being represented, as well as Northern Ireland.

Don't forget! if you are ever holidaying in Mullingar, or passing through, we are always delighted to welcome visitors. Our service commences at 11.15 a.m.

Wilson and Jeannette Porter

NAAS

Since the last issue our minister Rev. Jack Drennan has left us for Clontibret congregation in Co. Monaghan. Athy, Naas and Carlow are now vacant and we are on the lookout for a new minister. Rev. Mary Hunter is the convenor of the vacancy and if you know of anyone who might be interested in coming to us, please let her know.

One of the plus points about being vacant is that you get to hear quite a variety of preachers, from all sorts of backgrounds. It is interesting to note that in some churches the work of ministering to the congregation is undertaken by the Elders, both Teaching and Ruling, as a shared ministry, whereas in others the congregation is content to sit back and let the Teaching Elder, the ordained minister, do it all.

As a congregation, this vacancy has given us time to reflect on what sort of minister we should be looking for. We can list out the main things we would like our new minister to have, or to be, or to do, but what I want may not be the same as what the person in the next pew wants. But what we should agree on is that it is God who calls a minister to us, not we ourselves working from a list of qualities.

The part we play, as a Home Mission Development Charge, in getting our new minister is both great and small! It is small in that the Home Mission look after all the mechanics for us, of looking for and calling a new minister, and great in that we can influence the decision by prayer. This is something each person and family in our congregation can do, asking the Holy Spirit to guide those who are charged with finding our replacement. If we want to play our part, then the ball is firmly back in our court.

Cliff Kirker

'HOME FROM HOME'

As we go to press we learn that the committee of Home from Home Respite Care Scheme, which operates under the Church's Board of Social Witness, are running another weekend on or about our publication date (Thursday 1 to Sunday 4 October) in Lucan Youth Centre.

The co-ordinator of this particular weekend is a committee member, Ms Delwen Giles, of Sunbeam House, Vevay Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow. The weekend is for special children whose parents may wish to take a break. We hope to have a report on this long weekend and information about future events for publication in our next issue. Meanwhile, we wish God's choicest blessings on the committee's work.

SLEEPY HOLLOW TRUST

Sleepy Hollow, Kilquade, Co. Wicklow, will cease to operate its services as a family home for physically and mentally handicapped children as and from Sunday 1 November 1992.

Ted and Peggy Delany, who are regrettably retiring and whose home Sleepy Hollow is, have expressed to the Eastern Health Board their sincere hope that the necessary services for the handicapped children of Co. Wicklow will be provided elsewhere, so that those children's parents may continue to get occasional relief and respite.

Many parents (including the writer of this note) will be forever grateful for the Delanys' devotion to and love of those special children who have experienced the joy and happiness of Sleepy Hollow.

*Our cover picture is by Tom Brett of Waterford Road, Kilkenny
and is copyright*